GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
TOURISM CRITERIA
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/guiding principles presently followed for sustainable tourism in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to launch a comprehensive sustainable tourism criteria for India for Tour operators and infrastructure facilities in respect of beaches, backwaters, lakes and river sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the initiatives taken by the Government to promote sustainable tourism in the country particularly in rural areas, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism has launched a Comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for three major segments of tourism industry, namely accommodation, tour operators and Beaches, Backwaters, Lakes and Rivers sector on 26.08.2014.

The Ministry has guidelines for approval of Hotel Projects at the implementation stage and also guidelines for classification/re-classification of operational hotels under various categories. As per these guidelines, hotels at the project stage itself are required to incorporate various eco-friendly measures like Sewage Treatment Plan (STP), rain water harvesting system, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non- Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation etc. Under the guidelines for project level & classification/re- classification of operational hotels, it has been prescribed that the architecture of the hotel buildings in hilly and ecologically fragile areas should be sustainable and energy efficient and as far as possible be in conformity with the local ethos and make use of local designs and material.

The tour operators approved by Ministry of Tourism have to sign a pledge for commitment towards Safe & Honourable Tourism and Sustainable Tourism to fully implement Sustainable Tourism practices, consistent with the best environment and heritage protection standards, such that the present tourism resource requirements optimize both local community benefit and future sustainable uses.

(d): The Ministry of Tourism holds a constant dialogue with State Governments/U.T. Administrations, various tourism related institutions and stakeholders for drawing up strategies for development and promotion of tourism in the country including Sustainable Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism supports from time to time various seminars and events that deliberate or focus on tourism in the country including Sustainable Tourism in rural areas.

A sensitization workshop on Sustainable Tourism for stakeholders was organised on 26.08.2014 in New Delhi.

Financial support of Rs.5.00 lakh was given to the Ecotourism Society of India (ESOI) for organising following Responsible Tourism Workshops:

(i) Two day workshop on 'Practising Responsible Tourism' at Guwahati, Assam held on 23rd -24th March 2012;

(ii) Two-day workshop on 'Practising Responsible Tourism' at Aurangabad, Maharashtra held on 27th -28th April 2012.